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Amendment dated 2/23/05  
Response to Office Action dated 11/23/04

Application No. 10/662,037

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-19 are pending. Claims 1-9 are rejected by this Office Action.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 10-19. Also, the Applicant thanks the Examiner for accepting the drawings filed on September 12, 2003.

The present patent application is a continuation application of Application No. 09/320,816 (granted as US Patent No. 6,721,713) filed on May 27, 1999.

**Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §101**

Claims 1-9 are rejected by the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. 101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Office Action admits that claims 1-9 produce a useful, tangible, and concrete result. As discussed in MPEP 2106.IV.B.2.b.ii, “A claim is limited to a practical application when the method, as claimed, produces a concrete, tangible and useful result.” The Applicant has amended claim 1 to be directed to “A method in a computer system for identifying alliances among a plurality of business entities in components of a network framework” in order to clarify what is being claimed. (Emphasis added.) Consequently, claim 1, as amended, is directed to a computer-related process that is limited to a practical application in the technological arts in accordance with MPEP 2106.IV.B.2.b.ii. Claim 1 is thus directed to statutory subject matter. Moreover, claims 2-9 ultimately depend from claim 1 and are directed to statutory subject matter for at least the above reasons. The Applicant requests reconsideration of claims 1-9.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

Claims 10-19 are allowable.

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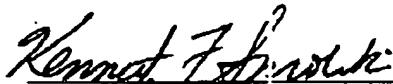
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## CONCLUSIONS

All objections and rejections have been addressed. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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